

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

November 9, 2022

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Meeks:

We write to request an immediate oversight hearing be convened, with testimony from top Administration officials, regarding our nation's response to the widespread and deadly human rights abuses now occurring in Iran, as well as a hearing to mark-up relevant legislation. There are seven legislative session days slated for November, and currently zero hearings regarding Iran have been scheduled.

For eight weeks, brave men and women in Iran have tirelessly protested the oppressive regime, which was sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini who was beaten to death while in custody of Iran's morality police after being arrested for allegedly wearing her headscarf incorrectly. Congress has been out of session for two months, and during that time, Iran has attempted to stop the protests with increasingly brutal force that has reportedly resulted in the death of more than 272 protestors, including 39 children. Nearly 14,000 are being detained.

As the lead legislative entity on policies promoting human rights around the world, the Foreign Affairs Committee has a unique responsibility to conduct a timely oversight hearing on Iran's outrageous conduct. Congress must work in tandem to promote a robust policy consistent with our values. While the United States has initiated sanctions on Iranian officials involved with the death of Mahsa Amini, pushed for the removal of Iran from the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and called for a special session of the UN Human Rights Council, more can and should be done – especially by Congress.

There is broad bipartisan interest on issues regarding Iran as made clear in the volume of legislation introduced in the House of Representatives. As men and women in Iran show indomitable courage in the face of Iran's security forces, the Committee should immediately hold an open oversight hearing with top Administration officials, as well as a hearing to debate and mark up the bipartisan pieces of legislation addressing the human rights abuses and terrorism activities perpetrated by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Sincerely,



DARRELL ISSA
Member of Congress



JOE WILSON
Member of Congress



TIM BURCHETT
Member of Congress




CLAUDIA TENNEY
Member of Congress



W. GREGORY STEUBE
Member of Congress



MARÍA ELVIRA SALAZAR
Member of Congress



ANN WAGNER
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STEVE CHABOT
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BRIAN MAST
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NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS
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YOUNG KIM
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